

## September 2022; Issue 9

### GOVERNMENT, LISTEN TO LOCAL VOICES! IMPLEMENT EU PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE ECONOMY, GREEN JOBS



Oil-affected communities whose land, cultural, livelihood and other rights are abused. These abuses undermine green economic activities such as agriculture.



The European Parliament adopts a resolution condemning the EACOP project. Photo credit: Les Amis de la Terre

#### In this newsletter:

- Green economic sectors at stake: Ugandan government should listen to EU parliament on EACOP
- Pictorial of our activities
- Lobbying
- In the media
- Upcoming events

Dear reader, welcome to our September 2022 newsletter. On September 14, 2022, the European Parliament passed a **resolution** asking the governments of Uganda and Tanzania together with TotalEnergies to delay construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project for one year.

In the resolution, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) took note of the human rights violations under and the environmental as well as climate change risks posed by the EACOP project.

They also took note of the criminalisation of environmental and human rights defenders (EHRDs) who speak out against the project.

The MEPs called on the EACOP project developers to protect the environment and to put an end to the extractive activities in protected and sensitive ecosystems.

They also urged the EACOP project developers to resolve all disputes that should have been resolved prior to the launch of the EACOP project.

Furthermore, they urged TotalEnergies to take one year to study the feasibility of an alternative route for the EACOP project to better safeguard protected and sensitive ecosystems as well as the water resources of Uganda and Tanzania.

Following the above resolution, public debate ensued.

While many stakeholders supported the European Parliament resolution, the Ugandan government called on the EU to respect Uganda's sovereignty.

Government observed that it would push ahead with the project.

In this newsletter however, AFIEGO and our partners make a case for government to listen to the European Parliament and prioritise environmental conservation as well as climate action over oil exploitation.

This is because oil exploitation stands to affect Uganda's most important economic sectors including agriculture, fisheries, tourism and clean energy among others that employ the majority of Ugandans while contributing the most to the country's GDP.

To promote prosperity for all, the Ugandan government must prioritise the above green economic sectors. Read more about this in our **Word from CEO and partners**.

In this newsletter, we also bring you our **pictorial** section.

In the section, we highlight the activities that we and our partners implemented this month.

For instance, we supported communities in Buliisa district whose property was destroyed due to 'floods' from the Tilenga Industrial Area to issue a press statement and

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engage the media.

This was aimed at creating pressure on TotalEnergies to address the flooding's impacts on communities.

In addition, we organised a planning and reflection meeting for our Just Energy Transition (JET) project Uganda partners. The meeting enabled us reflect on the project's milestones and challenges that need to be addressed in 2023.

Furthermore, we joined our Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) project partners in Uganda in a planning and reflection meeting. During the meeting, we took stock of the project's milestones and challenges.

In addition, we hosted a delegation from Oilwatch Africa during their solidarity visit to Uganda.

During the visit, the members documented the human rights violations, criminalisation of EHRDs and other violations in the oil sector.

The delegation shared experiences and engaged various stakeholders to enable EHRDs operate despite the repressed civic space in Uganda.

We also supported our staff to participate in an African Environmental Defenders' reflection

meeting that was organised by our partners. You will read about this and more in our pictorial.

In our **lobbying** section, we share some of the lobby and advocacy products that we disseminated this month.

For instance, we supported the EACOP-affected communities of Bunyoro and Greater Masaka to petition TotalEnergies to address their grievances.

In addition, with over 100 civil society groups, we wrote to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) expressing concerns over financing of the EACOP project.

We also issued a press statement to mobilise the media to report on our concerns.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we bring you some of the over ten newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in September.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter

### **Editorial team:**

**Diana Nabiruma**

**Patrick Edema**

**Balach Bakundane**

### GREEN ECONOMIC SECTORS AT STAKE: UGANDAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD LISTEN TO EU ON EACOP

Dear reader, ever since the European Parliament passed a resolution on the violation of human rights in Uganda and Tanzania linked to fossil fuel projects on September 14, 2022, public debate around the resolution has been huge.

In the resolution, the European parliament took note of the human rights violations and the climate change as well as environmental risks associated with exploitation of Uganda's oil resources including in protected areas such as Murchison Falls National Park. The European parliament also discussed the clamping down on critical Ugandan voices that speak out against oil exploitation in the country.

The parliament called for the protection of human rights as well as avoidance of oil exploitation in protected areas and sensitive ecosystems. The parliament also urged TotalEnergies to stop development of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project for a year to find an alternative route that has a small environmental footprint.

While large sections of the Ugandan public including politicians, conservationists, climate change activists, youth, civil society groups and the general public welcomed the resolution, the Ugandan government spoke out against it.

Government noted that as a sovereign country, Uganda has a right to develop its resources and together with its partners including TotalEnergies and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), it will go ahead to develop the EACOP project.

While it is true that the Ugandan government has a right to develop the country's resources for the benefit of its people, it is best that government listens to the European

parliament. Why?

Well, the oil and gas industry is a precarious one. Many countries, especially in Africa, that have developed the industry have seen their environmental resources being polluted and economic activities being decimated. On its part, Uganda's oil exploitation dreams stand to hurt key green economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, clean energy, fisheries and others that employ the majority of Ugandans and contribute the most to Uganda's GDP. How so?

We explain below.

#### WHAT UGANDA STANDS TO LOSE

**a) Disruption of households and impact on young people:** In 2012, the Ugandan government through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) displaced over 7,000 people including 3,500 women, 1,500 children and others from over 29 square kilometres of their land in Kabaale-Hoima district. Currently, the land is being used by government to build an airport.

The land is also expected to host an industrial park. Oil for a planned refinery and that to be transported by the EACOP will be separated at this industrial park. The massive displacement in 2012 caused and continues to cause untold suffering to the affected communities.

This is because the communities received delayed, unfair and inadequate compensation that resulted into collapse of schools, children dropping out of school, delays to resettle the affected people for over six years, denying some families including female-headed ones houses, forcing people into a camp and other problems. In 2014, some of the affected people filed a case in the High Court of Uganda to stop the above injustices

but to date, the court is yet to conclude their case for redress. These problems continue to happen in all oil affected communities. How do these impact household incomes and the Ugandan economy?

#### **b) Land rights abuses and agriculture:**

To develop infrastructure for the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects, the oil companies in Uganda and government are acquiring land from tens of thousands of households, much like they did from the aforementioned over 7,000 people. This has an impact on the affected people's capacity to contribute to Uganda's economy, and their household incomes.

How? Cut-off dates stopping project-affected people from using their land to grow perennial food and cash crops are set on the affected people's properties.

Delays to compensate the people amidst these land use restrictions are seen. This means that the households do not grow perennial food and cash crops such as coffee, bananas, cassava and others. Income losses occur as a result. The majority of the affected households are farmers. Moreover, **research** by AFIEGO shows that communities that are paid delayed compensation, a challenge that most oil-affected households face, are unable to replace all their land, undermining their capacity to engage in agriculture.

The agricultural sector contributes nearly **40%** to Uganda's GDP. Smallholder farmers such as the tens of thousands affected by oil projects contribute to this GDP. To protect the economy therefore, it is paramount to listen to the European Parliament when it calls for respect of human rights.

#### **c) Economic risks of climate change:**

African countries, including Uganda, have been disproportionately affected by the climate change crisis, the February 2022

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report confirms. The climate crisis has been largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels. When burnt, the oil transported by the EACOP will result in the production of up to 34.3 million metric tonnes of carbon per year for 20 to 25 years.

Climate change is a challenge to Uganda's economic growth. Uganda's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of September 2022 identify the agriculture, energy, tourism and other sectors as being some of the most vulnerable to climate change. The above economic sectors are some of the biggest, employing over 70% of Uganda's labourforce. With investments in the oil sector, Uganda is endangering economic sectors that employ millions. Yet the oil sector will create only **13,000** direct jobs at peak, a figure that experts have said could be inflated.

**d) Climate change risks to GDP:** Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment has sounded the warning bell when it comes to climate change. The ministry says that if no action is taken to address the climate change crisis, Uganda could spend **\$273 - 437 billion** on climate change costs between 2010 and 2050. This cost is higher than the less than \$ 20 billion that Uganda expects to earn from oil in 25 years. In March 2020, the World Bank estimated that Uganda could earn oil revenues of **\$800 million per year** at peak production, translating into less than \$ 20 billion over 25 years of oil production. Moreover, the Ministry of Water and Environment says that the climate change costs in Uganda could rise to **10%** of Uganda's GDP by 2100.

**e) Biodiversity impacts and tourism:** Oil exploitation activities are taking place in Uganda's protected areas, such as Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP). The park is one of Uganda's oldest, largest and most visited. By virtue of this, it can be argued that the park substantially contributes to Uganda's tourism

earnings, which peaked at **\$1.6 billion** in 2018. These earnings are more than the \$800 million per year that Uganda is expected to earn from oil at peak production.

Yet the oil sector stands to hurt tourism as habitat destruction, loss of feeding grounds, pollution and others are being seen because of oil exploitation activities in MFNP and the wider Albertine Graben.

In Uganda's **National Development Plan III**, the Ugandan government identified tourism as one of the country's priority sectors, noting that the sector remains one of the best performing.

The Ugandan government set targets of increasing the tourism sector's earnings to \$1.862 billion and the share of GDP to 8.5% by 2024/2025. To aid achievement of these targets, it is best that the Ugandan government listens to local voices and implements recommendations such as those of European Parliament that prioritise environmental conservation.

**f) Threats to clean energy aspirations:** Oil exploitation is also threat to Uganda's clean energy aspirations, and the country's ambitions to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 24.7% by 2030. The above is because oil and gas production would likely hamper energy transition efforts as Ugandans will need to provide a market for the country's oil and gas.

Furthermore, Uganda's energy sector is one of the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, with hydropower dams, which are the country's biggest energy sources, being put at risk of silting, dry conditions and other risks.

**g) Environmental risks and fisheries:** The oil sector in Uganda has affected major rivers and Lakes such as River Nile, Lake Albert, Lake

Victoria and others. Communities in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) rely on these rivers and lakes to make a living through fishing among others. In fact, lakes Victoria and Albert provide **82.9%** of the fish in Uganda. Further, the fisheries sector earned Uganda **\$118.6 million** between June 2020 and July 2021. The lakes also provide some of over **5 million** fisheries sector jobs in Uganda. The oil sector puts these earnings and jobs at risk.

**h) Burgeoning public debt:** Uganda has become highly indebted and by June 2022, Uganda's public debt stood at Shs. **79 trillion** (\$20.8 billion). By the same period, Uganda's debt to GDP ratio was projected to rise to **51.6%**. Uganda's 2020 Debt Sustainability report indicated that Uganda's debt had burgeoned due to borrowing to invest in the oil, gas and infrastructure sectors, among others. Economic experts have already expressed fear that **Uganda could experience the oil curse** due to borrowing in anticipation of oil revenues. It is prudent therefore to assess the economic risks vis-à-vis the benefits of the oil sector before continued investments.

## CONCLUSION

Ordinary Ugandans stand to lose out on jobs, food security and clean water access among others due to Uganda's oil exploitation activities. The Ugandan government also stands to see the economy being negatively impacted as the oil sector and climate change could affect the country's most prosperous economic activities.

It is therefore best that the Ugandan government listens to local voices and the European Parliament and addresses human rights violations as well as protects the environment to ensure a thriving economy.

**By CEO and Partners**

# Pictorial of our activities

## AFIEGO HOSTS OILWATCH AFRICA TEAM MEMBERS



On September 6, 2022, AFIEGO hosted a delegation from Oilwatch Africa at AFIEGO's office in Kampala.

During the meeting, the OilWatch Africa team including members from Nigeria shared their countries' oil production experience.

The meeting enabled AFIEGO staff to understand the impacts oil production could have on the environment.

## AFIEGO SUPPORTS OILWATCH AFRICA TO VISIT OIL-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

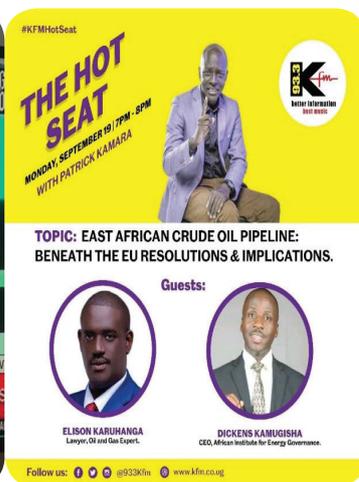


In addition to the above, on September 7, 2022, AFIEGO supported the Oilwatch Africa delegation to visit oil-affected communities.

This visit enabled the delegation to assess the human rights situation of the communities and to share experiences to enable the communities to protect their rights.

AFIEGO also supported the delegation to visit human rights defenders' bodies and other CSOs in Uganda.

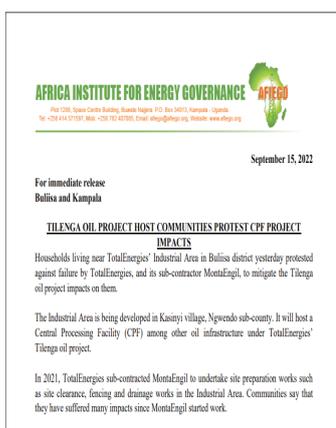
## AFIEGO CAMPAIGNS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN DEBATE ON EACOP



In September 2022, AFIEGO participated in over five media discussions on the European Parliament resolution on the EACOP project.

During the discussions, AFIEGO made a case for prioritisation of human rights and environmental conservation over the EACOP project.

## AFIEGO SUPPORTS TILENGA-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES TO MOBILISE PUBLIC PRESSURE TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS



On September 15, 2022, AFIEGO supported communities whose property in Buliisa district was destroyed due to floods from the Tilenga Industrial Area to mobilise public pressure for addressing of their grievances.

After the communities held a protest in Buliisa, we supported them to engage the media to mobilise the public pressure.

## AFIEGO AND PARTNERS IN PLANNING AND REFLECTION MEETINGS



Between September 13 and 15, 2022, AFIEGO and our partners under the Just Energy Transition (JET) and Green Livelihoods Alliance-Uganda programme participated in reflection and planning meetings in Kampala.

We reflected on the milestones registered in 2022 and identified areas and strategies that will guide implementation of the projects in 2023.

## AFIEGO JOINS PARTNERS AT THE AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS' REFLECTION MEETING



Between September 27 and 28, 2022, AFIEGO joined our partners in the African Environmental Defenders reflection meeting in Nairobi.

The reflection meeting provided a safe space for networking, capacity building and reflection on the experiences of frontline African environmental defenders.

In September 2022, AFIEGO supported the EACOP-affected communities of Bunyoro and Greater Masaka to petition TotalEnergies to address their grievances. Further, we supported Tilenga oil project host communities to issue a press statement detailing the impact of 'flooding' from the Tilenga Industrial Area on communities.

In addition, we joined over 100 CSOs and issued a press statement as well as a CSO letter to Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) expressing concerns over financing of the EACOP project.

**EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE OF BUNYORO AND GREATER MASAKA**

September 16, 2022

Mr. Martin Tiffen,  
The General Manager,  
East African Crude Oil Pipeline Co. Ltd,  
Kampala-Uganda.



Dear Sir,

**RE: PETITION REQUESTING THE EACOP COMPANY TO ADDRESS EMERGING GRIEVANCES OF EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE (PAPS)**

Allow us to greet you. We are a collection of persons whose land is being acquired for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions. Particularly, our land is being acquired for the EACOP Right of Way (RoW).

As you are aware, TotalEnergies commenced on processes to acquire our land in 2018. We were informed that without consulting us, government, alongside the other EACOP project developers, had decided that the EACOP would pass through our lands.

We accepted this decision. Some of our leaders told us that the EACOP is a government project and we have no right to refuse government from taking our land. We were promised to be paid fair and adequate compensation very soon.

Our properties were assessed and cut-off dates were placed. These were placed in May and June 2019 for Greater Masaka and Bunyoro respectively

Since then, we have experienced untold suffering as we were stopped from using our land to grow perennial crops and to set up other developments. It is as if we committed a crime.

Currently, we are experiencing some relief as compensation has either been received or some of us are signing for compensation. However, there are emerging grievances that we hope you can address.

What are our challenges?

**CHALLENGES**

- a) **Different compensation rates for the same district:** Sir, as you must be aware, the EACOP-affected people of Kyotera district were not satisfied with the compensation rates that were set for our zone. As you know, a coffee plant in Kyotera district was valued at



September 22, 2022

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
KAMPALA**

**OVER HUNDRED CSOS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK'S FINANCING OF EACOP**

Over 100 civil society organisations (CSOs) working in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Africa as well as their global allies have written to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

This follows a September 10, 2022 announcement by the IsDB in which the financial institution indicated that it would provide \$100 million as a project finance loan for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The EACOP is a planned 1,443-kilometre crude oil pipeline that is expected to be built from Hoima in Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania.

While announcing the project finance loan, the IsDB noted that Uganda's oil discoveries offer the country an opportunity to transform Uganda's economy and reduce poverty.

In their September 21, 2022 letter to the IsDB, the CSOs argue that the EACOP is not the type of project that will safeguard Uganda's economic future. They note that the EACOP stands to further indebted Uganda, worsen the global climate change crisis and negatively impact Uganda's most prosperous and sustainable industries that employ the majority of Ugandans. The sectors also contribute the most to Uganda's GDP.

The CSOs note that the above is because when used, the oil transported by the EACOP - at peak production - will contribute to the production of over 34.3 million metric tonnes of carbon per year. This will exacerbate the climate change crisis. This, the CSOs say, will affect Uganda's most inclusive and prosperous economic activities including agriculture, tourism, clean energy and other sectors.

In their letter, the CSOs also called attention to the fact that Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment has noted that the climate change costs in Uganda could rise to 10% of Uganda's



September 21, 2022

Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman AJ Jasser,  
The President,  
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).



Dear Sir,

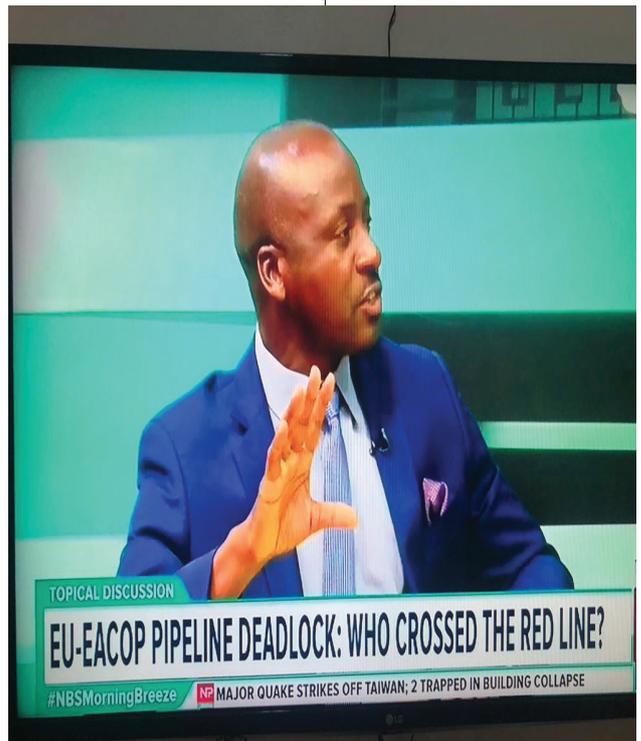
**CSO LETTER TO ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER FINANCING OF EACOP PROJECT**

We, the undersigned environmental and human rights civil society groups working to promote environmental conservation, human rights observance and a just energy transition in Uganda, Africa and our global allies, salute you.

We are writing to you today to express our grave concerns with the reported role played by Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in the financing of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. On September 10, 2022, it was reported that the IsDB would provide a \$100 million project finance loan for construction of the EACOP. IsDB indicated that the discovery of oil in Uganda gives the country an opportunity to transform Uganda's economy and reduce poverty.

The EACOP is a planned 1,443-kilometre crude oil pipeline expected to be built from Hoima in Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania. The EACOP project developers include TotalEnergies, China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and the Ugandan as well as Tanzanian governments.

Since the pipeline project was announced, it has faced resistance from local and international communities. Over a million people have signed a petition calling for the project to be stopped. Further, on September 15, 2022, the European Union (EU) parliament urged TotalEnergies to desist from developing the project through protected areas and to stop abusing affected communities' rights. Furthermore, on September 20, 2022, TotalEnergies' CEO, Mr. Patrick



This month, AFIGO staff, research associates and youth champions wrote over ten newspaper articles that were published in the leading newspapers. The media also published articles from the media interviews we held this month. Some of the published articles are captured below.

## LETTER OF THE DAY

For more than 16 years, Uganda has paid Shs.4 trillion to 13 power generation firms for electricity that was not evacuated (deemed power).

For the financial year that ended June 30, 2021, the government spent up to Shs87.7bn, paying deemed energy costs in regards to 13 power purchase agreements (PPAs), according to the Auditor General. This is a very huge loss the country is making by spending such amounts of money on the product that is not utilised.

For example Achwa dam hydro power which lacked transmission lines and the government through UFDCL constructed a Shs300 temporary distribution line to evacuate 12MW of the total 41MW generated from the dam. However the line only evacuated power for four months before halting the process due to technical glitches occasioned by differences in construction design of the dam and line.

This has left people in Gulu suffering power outages despite neighbouring a hydro power dam whose developers are earning billions for redundancy and yet the government has to face charges. On August 13, media reported about Isimba dam starting at Shs5.8bn. It revealed that flooding of the Isimba hydro-power dam led to its temporary shutdown and this was a result of human error. As a result, Umeire warned the public to brace for power blackouts for eight days.

Despite the surplus power of about 1346.7mw only 800mw is consumed by Ugandans during peak hours while 400mw is consumed during off-peak hours. This means that more than 500mw is deemed power.

Following this incident, why should Ugandans suffer on eight days blackout yet the country is generating excess electricity that cannot be consumed by the population.

It is unfortunate that the government continues to spend billions of shillings on big dams yet

## Why is surplus power not helping Ugandans?



Ugandans are not benefiting from the generated power. The failure of Isimba to supply electricity raises fresh questions by Ugandans on the allegations by the Former Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga who informed the public about Shs24 billion that was embezzled during the construction of the dam. Absorbing no person was held accountable for making the government lose such billions of money.

Sadly, Ugandans are also paying for deemed power that is not being used. In the recent Auditor General report 2021, it was indicated that the government lost Shs80 billion from deemed electricity.

The deemed power has partly contributed to the exorbitant power tariffs which explain why most Ugandans are shunning grid electricity for solar power as indicated by the UBS report 2020. Only 19 percent of the population had access to electricity yet the country has over the years boasted about the presence of surplus power.

For all these issues to be solved, the Ministry of Energy together with sister agencies should put emphasis on the following:

First, stop load shedding. In the presence of surplus electricity, Ugandans continue to suffer rampant load shedding which has affected their livelihoods. A number of businesses need electricity to function but this is not possible due to the constant power outages.

Secondly, tap into other resources. Uganda is blessed with other alternative clean energy like off-grid solar energy that has the capacity to provide for both domestic and industrial purposes.

Furthermore, critical public institutions such as health centres, schools, water supply schemes, and government offices, are at the heart of socio-economic development in any community. Restructure and, if possible, delay construction of new (large) power stations to balance grid supply and demand. Government should put more emphasis on transmission and distribution investments to enable evacuation of power and serve latent demand.

Finally, the ministry should put more emphasis on power generation, transmission and distribution to solve the challenge of deemed power.

Also, the government must address the issue of corruption in the energy sector which has resulted in shoddy work and poor service delivery that has limited the access to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity for a number of Ugandans.

Thirdly, review and address the outstanding electricity sector issues. Electricity consumers have continuously suffered a number of challenges such as high power tariffs and sub-standard meters among others. Therefore, there is a need for the government to address these issues.

## LETTER OF THE DAY

The purpose of practical formal environmental education in schools is to inculcate knowledge, awareness, positive attitudes and behaviours in the long run. This is on an assumption that awareness and positive attitude among students are key in ensuring development.

As Uganda continues to be a natural resource-based economy which is likely to persist into the foreseeable future, the state of environment and natural resources remains a major determinant of the wellbeing of citizens. Problems such as degradation in Uganda have long been recognised.

Formal environmental education was taught in schools in the early 1980s as a nature study but despite the efforts, environmental degradation has been escalating within the past years.

Uganda's State of Environment Report 2018/2019 underscored the need of practical formal environmental education. It is important in promoting sustainable environmental conservation behaviour among the public.

The continued environmental degradation in Uganda raises questions about the nature of formal environmental education attained.

Given that environmental degradation in Uganda is as a result of human activities indicates that people have not developed environmentally responsible behaviour. For instance, proper disposal of plastics is still a challenge.

Therefore, there is a need to adjust the mode of delivery for imparting environmental knowledge. Students are more likely to master and remember what they see than what is discussed and written on black and white boards.

On August 12, Daily Monitor published an article titled "Patriotic education essential for youth". When it comes to patriotic youth are taught to love and sacrifice for the country. It is im-

portant to note that patriotic citizens are more likely to embrace environmental education. Students stand a high chance of practicing what they are passionate about. It requires discipline for someone to be able to conform to environmental conservation, thus you cannot protect what you are not passionate about.

It is observed that there is always no actual classroom observation for environment neutrality. Therefore, formal environmental education should focus on awareness and sensitivity to the environment, attitudes and values that reflect feelings of concern for the environment.

Uganda's primary school syllabi has little content on environmental degradation and sustainable utilisation of the environmental resources. There is hardly any content that emphasises development of skills, positive attitudes

and environmentally responsible behaviour among learners. This could result in learners accumulating knowledge which may not influence their attitude and hence not lead to environmentally responsible behaviour.

Knowledge about the environment does not mean that a person will behave in an environmentally friendly manner. Thus, environmental education should draw its emphasis on learning through observation, inquiry, and discovery to pave way for environment neutrality.

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It is observed that there is always no actual classroom observation for environment neutrality. Therefore, formal environmental education should focus on awareness and sensitivity to the environment, attitudes and values that reflect feelings of concern for the environment.

Uganda's primary school syllabi has little content on environmental degradation and sustainable utilisation of the environmental resources. There is hardly any content that emphasises development of skills, positive attitudes

and environmentally responsible behaviour among learners. This could result in learners accumulating knowledge which may not influence their attitude and hence not lead to environmentally responsible behaviour.

Knowledge about the environment does not mean that a person will behave in an environmentally friendly manner. Thus, environmental education should draw its emphasis on learning through observation, inquiry, and discovery to pave way for environment neutrality.

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## Sensitise women on environment, land rights

**EDITOR:** Women in Africa face legal and cultural barriers to enjoying equal rights to land. This has major implications for their livelihoods, homes and status within their communities.

Changes are needed to ensure that women have unlimited access to land and the power to make their own decisions about its use. Such changes will be foundational for fostering human rights and democracy in Africa.

It is important to note that land is the foundation for shelter, livelihood and climate resilience. More so, we should know that we cannot achieve gender equality without women's equal rights to the world's most elemental resource, which is land. Women's land rights are fundamental human rights.

Furthermore, land is central to power and identity. Control over land is fundamental to gender justice. It is clear to note that according to traditional African culture, women are never allowed to own or access land, which has limited their power in the society. Under Article 26 of the Constitution, every citizen has the right to own land and to live in a healthy environment. It is unfortunate that vulnerable women are still unaware about this article in the Constitution.

In addition, Article 26 empowers citizens to own property and to receive prompt, fair and adequate compensation during compulsory land acquisitions for public projects.

For everyone, regardless of gender, rights for women and girls mean more prosperity, peace and sustainability. For women, land rights mean more equal power and ability to realise economic opportunity and legal rights. Once women are given access to land, there will be increased food production, climate change mitigation/adaptation, increased employment opportunities and socio-economic development.

Women and girls experience poverty, food insecurity in a

harsher way than men. For girls, land rights mean better nutrition, healthcare, access to education and delayed marriage.

In my opinion, the Government, through the lands ministry need to sensitise women on their environmental and land rights. There is also need to ensure communities that are being affected by public projects compensated well.

Land rights will help women to break the cycle of poverty and improve not only their own lives, but those of their families and entire communities.

Women cannot be owned as property, but land as property can be owned by women.

**Ireen Twongirwe, executive director Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda**

**EDITOR:** Two weeks ago, Uganda suffered a power crisis after the Isimba hydro-power plant was shut down when it flooded. This incident affected a number of businesses.

Clean energy plays a crucial role in the development and sustainability of a nation's economy. It has a key impact on all facets of socio-economic activity in Uganda today. This is because energy drives other sectors of the economy, such as food, health and water. In addition, the future economic growth of a nation is said to be guaranteed when there is a continuous energy supply that is eco-friendly, sustainable, accessible and affordable.

However, the quality of life (health, education and security) of the citizens of any nation is dependent on the adequacy of energy supply.

## Why Ugandans must demand investment in off-grid solar power

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Uganda's location on the equator allows her to obtain about eight hours of sunshine

created for every 100 solar home systems sold.

Thus, this would lead to the development of indigenous expertise in installations, repairs and manufacturing of solar components and devices across the country.

Compared to fossil fuel, renewable energy minimises the carbon footprint that keeps the environment clean. Nature needs all the help it can get, which is why Ugandans must demand investment in off-grid solar energy.

Using off-grid technology would help provide electricity, and reduce the consumption of fossil fuels. This would also

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## Upcoming events

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October 3, 2022; Regional: Meeting to discuss the EACOP case at the East African Court of Justice

October 10, 2022; Kampala: Commissioning of research on the impact of oil activities on forests in the Albertine Graben

October 14, 2022; Bunyoro and Greater Masaka: Radio talkshows on relevance of the European parliament resolution to communities

October 17, 2022; Hoima: Community sensitisation meeting on the importance of clean energy in addressing the climate change crisis

October 21, 2022; Kampala: Dissemination of a research brief on pro-poor energy policies for promotion of off-grid electrification

October 28, 2022; Cross-border: Webinar on operating in restricted civic spaces

### About Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)

AFIEGO is a non-profit company limited by guarantee that was incorporated under Uganda's Companies Act. AFIEGO undertakes public policy research and advocacy to influence energy policies to benefit the poor and vulnerable. Based in Kampala-Uganda, the non-profit company was born out of the need to contribute to efforts to turn Africa's clean energy potential into reality and to ensure that the common man and woman benefits from this energy boom. Through lobbying, research and community education, AFIEGO works with communities and leaders to ensure that clean energy resources are utilised in a way that promotes equitable development, environmental conservation and respect for human rights.

#### Our Vision

A society that equitably uses clean energy resources for socio-economic development

#### Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities